



Tempe Art in Private Development



Fountainhead Corporate Park - Square

1560 W. Fountainhead Parkway

John Richen

Desert Winds, 1998

Bronze and stainless steel

Artist Website:

www.JohnRichenSculpture.com

Description: Standing 18-feet tall, *Desert Winds* was designed to echo its environment of the desert, the wind and the patterns of the desert sand while defining the entrance to two buildings in Fountainhead Corporate Park. The artist is known for creating abstract pieces that are at once strong and graceful. He goes to great lengths to achieve a high sheen that resembles the reflective characteristics of water. Richen enjoys having fun with his work by adding subtle elements with hidden meanings that do not necessarily relate to the theme of the work into many of his pieces. *Desert Winds* earned the Fountainhead Corporate Park Square team an Art in Private Development Excellence Award in 1998.

Artist biography: While studying architecture at Oregon State University, Richen enrolled in a class on sculpture. After discovering that he had a talent for the medium and that the “hands on” feeling of sculpting a design held a special appeal for him, Richen decided to study art. Richen has exhibited his works in major shows throughout the country, and in Amsterdam and Montreal. A partial list of those collections where Richen's works are displayed includes the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, the Raffles Hotel Corporation, Bowater Computers, the University of Chicago Medical School and collections in Saudi Arabia and Switzerland. In addition to his large scale, one-of-a-kind commissioned sculptures and fountains, Richen designs smaller sculptures for both residential and corporate audiences. Many of these latter works are created in a numbered series, not to exceed 10 of any one design.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer, Marathon Management & Development LLC, as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.